

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FOR H AND EA/APN

E.O. 11652: N/AR
TAGS: OREP *WOLFF, LESTER
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

1. SUMMARY: CODEL WOLFF'S JANUARY 7-9 VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA ACCOMPLISHED CODEL'S OBJECTIVES OF MEETING AND EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH BOTH GPNG POLICYMAKERS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS. DISCUSSIONS WERE CORDIAL, FRANK AND INFORMATIVE AND VISIT HELPED CONVINCE GPNG OF U.S. INTEREST NOT ONLY IN PNG BUT ALSO IN PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA. WE BELIEVE CODEL MEMBERS AND STAFF DEPARTED WITH A NEWLY-FOUND RESPECT FOR, AND EVEN FASCINATION WITH, THIS COUNTRY. PROGRAM WENT SMOOTHLY AND PARTY OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH VISIT, WITH SEVERAL PROMISING TO RETURN. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL WOLFF VISITED PORT MORESBY JANUARY 7-9, MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CHAN, FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWATE AND DEFENCE FORCE COMMANDER B GEN DIRO AND ADVISORS IN FORMAL BRIEFINGS WHICH WERE FOLLOWED BY CORDIAL, FRANK AND INFORMATIVE EXCHANGES. AMONG KEY AREAS DISCUSSED WERE SECURITY, PNG FOREIGN POLICY, DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND U.S. ROLE IN THE AREA. POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE WAS RAISED BY

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CODEL AND PURSUED TO SOME EXTENT BY REPTS. GUYER, SKUBITZ AND MYERS IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH CHAN. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD NO BILATERAL AID PROGRAM AND NO PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING ONE.

3. SOCIALLY, CODEL MET WITH NUMBER OF OTHER CABINET

MINISTERS, OPPOSITION LEADERS AND OTHER
PROMINENT PAPUA NEW GUINEANS. STAFF ALSO MET SOCIALLY
WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS AND OTHER PROMINENT PERSONS.
REACTION OF BOTH MEMBERS AND STAFF WAS ONE OF VERY
PLEASANT SURPRISE AT THE HIGH CALIBER AND LEVEL OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEANS THEY MET. ONE RESULT OF STAFF
VISIT WAS CONTACT WITH HEAD OF POLICE NARCOTICS
PROGRAM AND PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF DEA AND POSSIBLY CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAMS.

4. A MIXER WITH FILMS AND VTR'S ON PNG, VISITS TO
A NATIVE VILLAGE, AN ARTIFACTS OUTLET, THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM AND OTHER SIDE TRIPS COMPLETED A RELATIVELY
RELAXED PROGRAM WHICH APPEARED TO BE ENJOYED BY
CODEL. A NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND STAFF INDICATED
THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN.

5. WE BELIEVE VISIT NOT ONLY SUCCESSFUL FROM POINT
OF VIEW OF CODEL BUT ALSO BENEFICIAL TO POST.
CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND OTHERS EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY
THAT THEIR PRESENCE WAS A FURTHER (ASST. SECY.
HOLBROOKE AND CINCPAC HAD BEEN HERE ONLY THREE
DAYS EARLIER) INDICATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN PAPUA
NEW GUINEA SPECIFICALLY AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC
GENERALLY. IMPACT OF CODEL ON GPNG WAS FAVORABLE.
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